

CLAIMS

1. A method of delivering content from a source to a sink by way of a computing device, the method comprising:

an application on the computing device calling to a media base on the computing device with a definition of the content, the source, and the sink;

the media base establishing a protected media path based on the defined content, source, and sink to effectuate such delivery, the established protected media path including:

the media base;

a source trust authority (SOTA) associated with and corresponding to the source, the SOTA acting as a secure lockbox connecting the source to the media base and representing the source in the protected media path; and

a sink trust authority (SITA) associated with and corresponding to the sink, the SITA acting as a secure lockbox connecting the sink to the media base and representing the sink in the protected media path;

the SOTA on behalf of the source establishing trust with respect to the protected media path;

the SOTA upon trust being established with respect to the protected media path propagating policy corresponding to the content to be delivered to the protected media path;

the SOTA determining a particular type of action to be taken with the content as delivered through the protected media path;

the SOTA deciding with regard to the propagated policy that the particular type of action cannot be taken with the content as delivered through

the protected media path and informing the media base of a refusal to take such action;

the media base informing the application of the refusal to take the action;

the SOTA recognizing that the refusal may be rectified by way of a particular enabler available to such SOTA and the SOTA providing the particular enabler to the application by way of the media base, the provided enabler including information and methods necessary for the application to obtain data necessary to respond to the refusal;

the application receiving the enabler at an interface thereof by way of the media base, and the interface applying a common interaction procedure to run the enabler to obtain the data necessary to respond to the refusal;

the application providing the obtained data to the media base and the media base employing the provided data to respond to the refusal;

the SOTA deciding with regard to the propagated policy and based at least in part on the responded refusal that the particular type of action can be taken with the content as delivered through the protected media path and informing the media base regarding same; and

the media base informing the application that the particular type of action can be taken, and the application proceeding by commanding the media base to perform such type of action.

2. The method of claim 1 comprising the SOTA providing the particular enabler to the application by the media base providing the application with a reference to the particular enabler.

3. The method of claim 1 comprising the interface running the enabler in an attempt to obtain the necessary data from a user of the application.

4. The method of claim 1 comprising the interface running the enabler in an attempt to obtain the necessary data from one of the computing device of the application and another computing device coupled to the computing device of the application.

5. The method of claim 1 comprising the SOTA refusing to take the action because of the lack of a proper license corresponding to the content and the interface running the enabler to obtain the proper license.

6. The method of claim 1 comprising the SOTA refusing to take the action because of the lack of a current version of an element of the protected media path and the interface running the enabler to obtain and install the current version of the element.

7. The method of claim 1 comprising the SOTA refusing to take the action because the SITA is set to be able to perform an impermissible action with respect to the content and the interface running the enabler to set the SITA to not be able to perform the impermissible action.

8. The method of claim 1 comprising the interface of the application periodically providing a progress notification to at least one of the SOTA, the application, the media base, and a user of the application.

9. The method of claim 1 comprising the SOTA providing the particular enabler to the application from among a plurality of enablers each for responding to a particular refusal, and the interface applying a common interaction procedure to run the particular enabler where the common interaction procedure can run any of the plurality of enablers.

10. A method of delivering content from a source to a sink by way of a computing device where an application on the computing device defines to a

media base on the computing device the content, the source, and the sink, and the media base establishes a protected media path based on the defined content, source, and sink to effectuate such delivery, the established protected media path including the media base, a source trust authority (SOTA) associated with and corresponding to the source, the SOTA acting as a secure lockbox connecting the source to the media base and representing the source in the protected media path, and a sink trust authority (SITA) associated with and corresponding to the sink, the SITA acting as a secure lockbox connecting the sink to the media base and representing the sink in the protected media path, the method comprising the SOTA:

- establishing trust with respect to the protected media path;
- upon trust being established with respect to the protected media path, propagating policy corresponding to the content to be delivered to the protected media path;

- determining a particular type of action to be taken with the content as delivered through the protected media path;

- deciding with regard to the propagated policy that the particular type of action cannot be taken with the content as delivered through the protected media path and informing the media base of a refusal to take such action, where the media base informs the application of the refusal to take the action;

- recognizing that the refusal may be rectified by way of a particular enabler available to such SOTA and providing the particular enabler to the application by way of the media base, the provided enabler including information and methods necessary for the application to obtain data necessary to respond to the refusal, where the application receives the enabler at an interface thereof by way of the media base, and the interface applies a common interaction procedure to run the enabler to obtain the data necessary to respond to the refusal, and where the application provides the obtained data to the media base and the media base employs the provided data to respond to the refusal; and

deciding with regard to the propagated policy and based at least in part on the responded refusal that the particular type of action can be taken with the content as delivered through the protected media path and informing the media base regarding same, where the media base informs the application that the particular type of action can be taken, and the application proceeds by commanding the media base to perform such type of action.

11. The method of claim 10 comprising the SOTA providing the particular enabler to the application by the media base providing the application with a reference to the particular enabler.

12. The method of claim 10 comprising the SOTA refusing to take the action because of the lack of a proper license corresponding to the content and the interface running the enabler to obtain the proper license.

13. The method of claim 10 comprising the SOTA refusing to take the action because of the lack of a current version of an element of the protected media path and the interface running the enabler to obtain and install the current version of the element.

14. The method of claim 10 comprising the SOTA refusing to take the action because the SITA is set to be able to perform an impermissible action with respect to the content and the interface running the enabler to set the SITA to not be able to perform the impermissible action.

15. The method of claim 10 comprising the SOTA periodically receiving a progress notification from the interface of the application.

16. The method of claim 10 comprising the SOTA providing the particular enabler to the application from among a plurality of enablers each for responding to a particular refusal, where the interface applies a common

interaction procedure to run the particular enabler such that the common interaction procedure can run any of the plurality of enablers.